



# PRESS RELEASE

## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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## 2006 Washington Apple Production Down 3 Percent from 2005

**Olympia** - “Washington’s first production estimate for the 2006 **apple** crop is 5.60 billion pounds, down 3 percent from last year and 9 percent below 2004,” stated Joe Parsons with USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. Washington production makes up 58 percent of the U.S. total.

Nationally, apple production is forecast at 9.62 billion pounds, down 2 percent from last year and 8 percent below 2004. Compared with 2005, production decreases in the Central and Western States offset a projected increase in the Eastern States. Production in the Western States (AZ, CA, CO, ID, OR, UT, and WA) is forecast at 6.25 billion pounds, down 3 percent from last year and 9 percent below 2004. In Washington State frost was a problem for some orchards and protection measures were implemented in many areas. Hail affected orchards in north central Washington and the Tri-Cities area. A July 5 storm consisting of heavy rain, high winds, and hail caused major damage in Chelan County and north into Okanogan County. Many growers in this area reported losing entire crops. California’s forecast is 360 million pounds, 1 percent above last year and 2004. Overall size and color are good, but size is down on Galas due to a heat wave that struck the State the latter part of July. Harvest of Galas began on August 3, but it is too early to tell the effect of the heat on later maturing varieties. Oregon’s production is forecast at 155 million pounds, 7 percent above 2005 but 5 percent below 2004. The biggest increase in production is in the Willamette Valley where growers expect to harvest more than twice as many apples as last year. Other growing areas of the State are expecting a slightly smaller crop than last year. In the Eastern States, production is forecast at 2.31 billion pounds, up 1 percent from last year but 8 percent below 2004. New York’s crop is forecast at 1.10 billion pounds, up 6 percent from last year’s crop but 14 percent below 2004. Across New York, producers reported above average growing conditions. A May frost caused only scattered damage, but scab may be a problem this year due to the hot, humid weather. Pennsylvania’s forecast of 450 million pounds is a decrease of 13 percent from 2005 but is 11 percent above 2004. Growers reported the apples were sizing up well due to ample rain and heat. Production in the Central States is forecast at 1.06 billion pounds, a decrease of 5 percent from 2005 and 3 percent below 2004. Michigan’s production forecast is 680 million pounds, down 13 percent from last year and 7 percent below 2004. Yield potential varied widely across the State.

U.S. pear production for 2006 is forecast at 835,310 tons, up 1 percent from last year but 5 percent below 2004. **Bartlett pear** production for California, Oregon, and Washington is forecast at 425,000 tons, 3 percent below the June forecast but 9 percent more than a year ago. Bartlett production for California is forecast at 195,000 tons, equal to the June forecast but 17 percent above 2005. The Bartlett bloom period was lengthened particularly in the Sacramento river and Mendocino areas due to rain and cool temperatures. Bartlett production in Oregon is forecast at 60,000 tons, unchanged from the previous forecast but 3 percent above 2005. Growers along the Washington border, where most of the Bartlett pears are grown, are expecting a good harvest this year. Growers in that area commented there was a good set this year, despite the early spring’s cool, wet weather. Producers reported few problems with insects, but problems with russet are a concern. In Washington, Bartlett production is forecast at 170,000 tons, down 8 percent from the June forecast but 2 percent above the previous season. Cool, windy spring conditions, poor pollination and frost have hindered some producers’ pears this season. Hail damage during June and a major storm on July 5 in Chelan and Okanogan Counties negatively impacted many growers’ orchards, with some losing their entire crop. Throughout Washington, hail damage has reduced production and packout will be lower than June’s expectations. **Other pear** production in the Pacific Coast States is expected to total 385,000 tons, 8 percent below last year and 2 percent below 2004. Production in Washington is forecast at 200,000 tons, 19 percent below a year ago but 3 percent above 2004. As with Washington’s Bartlett

pears, cool, windy spring conditions, poor pollination, and frost hindered some producers. In Oregon, other pear production is forecast at 145,000 tons, 8 percent above last year but 3 percent below 2004. Growers expect the other pear crop to be better than last year's crop due to mostly ideal spring growing conditions.

U.S. **grape** production is forecast at 6.72 million tons, down 14 percent from 2005 but 8 percent above 2004. California leads the U.S. in grape production with 90 percent of the total. Washington and New York are the next largest producing States, with 5 percent and 2 percent, respectively. California's all grape forecast, at 6.04 million tons, is up 1 percent from the July forecast but 13 percent below 2005. Washington's all grape production is expected to total 350,000 tons, down 16 percent from last year's record high crop. New York's forecast, at 160,000 tons, is 10 percent below last year. Washington wine grape production is forecast at a record high 120,000 tons, 9 percent above last season. Warm, favorable conditions this spring combined with an increase in bearing acreage left growers optimistic for a record high season. Washington's juice type grape forecast, at 230,000 tons, is 25 percent below 2005's bumper crop. California's wine grape production is expected to total 3.20 million tons, down 16 percent from last year and accounts for 53 percent of California's total grape crop. California's raisin type grape production is forecast at 2.05 million tons, down 11 percent from 2005 and accounts for 34 percent of California's total grape crop. Production of California table grapes is forecast at 790,000 tons, down 9 percent from last year and accounts for 13 percent of California's total grape crop.

Washington's **prune** forecast, at 5,000 tons, is up 39 percent from the record low production in 2005 but is 9 percent below 2004. Eastern growing regions experienced a later spring this year than during the past two seasons. Conditions in the Yakima Valley have been favorable with only scattered reports of frost and hail damage. The Oregon forecast, at 13,000 tons, is well above last season's record low production, but is equal to the production in 2004. Oregon growers report this year's crop will be many times larger than last year's record low production, but fruit set is uneven. The Idaho forecast is 3,000 tons, 50 percent above last year but 25 percent less than 2004. Irrigation water supplies are adequate but some un-irrigated orchards are showing heat damage from July's hot, dry weather. Late frosts and poor pollination may affect production but no major insect or disease problems are reported.

Washington's **peach** production is forecast at 21,500 tons, up 3 percent from last season but equal to 2004 production. The California Freestone forecast, which is carried forward from July 1, stands at 380,000 tons, down 1 percent from 2005 and 13 percent below the 2004 season. California's Clingstone forecast, also carried forward from July 1, is 380,000 tons, down 21 percent from last season and 29 percent below 2004.



To access the entire release, including the complete narrative and tables point to <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa/press/appleaug.pdf>

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